

Senator Hune and Agriculture Committee Members

I would like to offer the following matter in regards to Senator Tom Casperon's urging in relation to SB 996. Late in August 2011, our family's two boxer's, Zoey and Layla, were attacked by a wolf in our back yard by a wolf. Zoey, our older boxer was killed at the scene. A few days later, Layla succumbed to wounds received in the attack. The DNR officer and wildlife technician that responded/investigated the attack explained at the time that there was no restitution for "pets" for this type of incident, only for livestock.

While no amount of money can really pay for a family pet, as these will always be missed, it seems unbalanced that livestock can be reimbursed for while pets are not. I would like to argue that this is unfair on two points. First, many, like us, have spent good money to purchase, raise, and upkeep these animals. Why would this not be considered for reimbursement, especially when we are faced with so many rules in not being able to prevent this type of event from happening. Secondly, I would like to offer the point that not only are these domestic animals or "pets" are also bred by many I know and the offspring sold to others. This creates a "commerce" event very similar to that of farmers/ranchers. While this may not be the sole livelihood of "dog" breeders, it is arguable that this arrangement is very similar to part-time farmers/ranchers that do not operate agricultural businesses as their sole income and livelihood. In this second point, it is discriminatory and therefore unfair to not pass along a restitution program to pet owners that mirrors that of livestock owners.

If you or any other committee would like to speak with me about this matter in greater detail, please contact me. My contact information is below.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

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